

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

For the inserted paragraph after the title, which was filed in the Preliminary Amendment of February 10, 2006, please amend that paragraph as follows; the Applicants' representative believes that paragraph is now paragraph [0001].

[0001] ~~This application is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/CH2004/000511, filed August 16, 2004. This application is a U.S. filing under 35 U.S.C. 271 of PCT/CH2004/00511, filed on August 16, 2004, which claims the benefit of EP 030176677.0, filed on August 14, 2003, the contents of each of which are herein incorporated by reference.~~ The present invention relates to polynucleotides derived from polynucleotides which encode an enzyme which converts L-sorbose directly to L-ascorbic acid. The enzyme L-sorbose dehydrogenase (in the following: SNDHai) produces L-ascorbic acid (vitamin C) directly from L-sorbose. The L-sorbose dehydrogenase (SNDHai) was derived from bacteria belonging to the genera Gluconobacter and Acetobacter. The present invention further relates to a process for the production of L-ascorbic acid in high yield. L-Ascorbic acid is widely used in the pharmaceutical, food and cosmetic industries.